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## Thailand

### Rice Price - Weekly

#### Weekly Rice Price Update

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**Report Highlights:**

TH1047 Export prices were offered 1-2 percent higher due to the strengthening of the Thai baht to 29.95 baht/\$. Also, foreign buyers returned to make enquiries for Thai white rice as prices of Thai and Vietnamese white rice converged last week.

**Post:**  
Bangkok

## Market Tone

**Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Apr 11, 2011**

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	-	-	1,000	-	930	905	-	945	949
WR 100 B	-	-	510	-	510	490	500	503	496
PB 100%	-	-	515	-	505	495	500	504	503
PB 5%	-	-	510	-	500	490	495	499	497
WR 5%	-	-	495	-	490	470	490	486	481
WR 10%	-	-	480	-	485	465	-	477	474
WR 15%	-	-	470	-	-	460	-	465	463
WR 25%	-	-	460	-	-	440	-	450	447
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	-	-	420	-	410	390	-	407	399
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 29.95 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Export prices were offered 1-2 percent higher due to the strengthening of the Thai baht to 29.95 baht/\$, as compared to 30.10 baht/\$ in the previous week. Also, foreign buyers returned to make enquiries for Thai white rice as prices of Thai and Vietnamese white rice converged last week. The price difference between Thai and Vietnamese rice declined to approximately \$5/MT, from an average of \$20-30/MT over the last couple of weeks. However, the domestic market has not fully responded due to a long holiday this week. Rice millers and traders will resume work next week. Meanwhile, a government-to-government contract of 200,000 tons of 5 percent grade parboiled rice to Bangladesh which was finalized last week at \$580/MT (C&F) will likely be this government's last government-to-government rice deal as there will be a new general election in late June or early July. The delivery for the Bangladesh contract will be from April 16 – May 11, 2011. Currently, the government has outstanding intervention stock of approximately 1.0 million tons.

The government's weekly benchmark price for white rice for April 11-17, 2011 increased 0.4 percent. As such farmers will receive lower compensation compared to the previous week. Farmers that sell their supplies this week will be able to arbitrage as market prices are slightly above the benchmark

prices.

**Table 2: Price Insurance Scheme for MY2009/2010 - MY2010/2011 rice crop**

	Rice paddy				
	Fragment rice (Bha/ton)	Provincial fragrant rice	Pathum fragrant rice	Glutinous rice	White rice
1. Eligible tonnage (ton/household)	14	16	30 <sup>a</sup>	30 <sup>a</sup>	30 <sup>a</sup>
2. Insured prices (Bhat/ton) <sup>a</sup>	15,300	14,300	11,500	10,000	11,000
3. Benchmark prices (Bhat/ton) <sup>b,c</sup>					
Mar 14-20	12,470	12,125	10,293	15,239	8,612
Mar 21-27	12,538	12,195	10,128	15,182	8,467
Mar 28 - Apr 3	13,019	11,810	9,936	14,973	8,310
Apr 4-10	-	11,778	9,378	14,781	8,056
Apr 11-17	-	11,800	9,300	14,733	8,092
4. Compensation (1-3), (Bhat/ton)					
Mar 14-20	2,830	2,175	1,207	-	2,388
Mar 21-27	2,762	2,105	1,372	-	2,533
Mar 28 - Apr 3	2,281	2,490	1,564	-	2,690
Apr 4-10	-	2,522	2,122	-	2,944
Apr 11-17	-	2,500	2,200	-	2,908
5. Market prices (Bhat/ton)					
Mar 14-20	12,450	12,500	9,900	16,500	8,300
Mar 21-27	12,600	12,500	9,700	15,750	8,100
Mar 28 - Apr 3	12,600	12,250	9,300	15,750	8,150
Apr 4-10	12,700	12,500	9,300	16,250	8,150
Apr 11-17 <sup>d</sup>	12,825	12,000	9,100	16,250	8,150

Note:

<sup>a</sup> Cabinet approval on March 8, 2010 to raise eligible tonnage to 30 tons/household for MY2010/11 off-season crop

<sup>b</sup> Starting March 8, 2010 the benchmark prices will be published on a weekly basis instead of twice a month on the 1st and 16th, based on average wholesale prices of last 15 days in Bangkok. The prices are set by the Subcommittee on Benchmark Price Determination, chaired by the Permanent Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce.

<sup>c</sup> Starting Apr. 26, 2010 the benchmark prices will be based on average wholesale price of last week in Bangkok.

<sup>d</sup> The insured prices of MY2009/10 second-crop Pathum Fragrant rice were revised up from 10,000 baht/MT in MY2009/10 main-crop price insurance scheme, effective Mar. 16, 2010. In addition, the insured prices of MY2010/11 season-crop Pathum Fragrant rice were revised up again to 11,500 baht/ton, effective Mar. 16, 2011. Also, those of white rice were raised from 10,000 baht/ton to 11,000 baht/ton, and glutinous rice from 9,500 baht/ton to 10,000 baht/ton.

<sup>e</sup> The benchmark prices of fragrant rice and Provincial fragrant rice are for MY2010/11 main crop.

<sup>f</sup> As of Apr. 11, 2011

**Figure 1: Comparison of market price, insurance price, and benchmark price**



Note: 1/ Benchmark prices are average wholesale prices which will be used for the calculation of compensation to farmers. The compensation is based on the difference between insurance prices and benchmark prices.

2/ Starting March 8, 2010 the benchmark prices will be published on a weekly basis instead of for a month on the 1st and 15th, based on average wholesale prices of last 15 days in Bangkok. The prices are set by the Subcommittee on Benchmark Price Determination, chaired by the Permanent Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce.

3/ Starting Apr. 26, 2011 the benchmark prices will be based on average wholesale price of last week in Bangkok.

## Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for April 4-10, 2011 totaled 220,993 tons, up 46,872 tons from the previous week, and up 27,932 tons from the four week moving average of 195,061 tons. Exports of white rice and parboiled rice during January 1 – April 10, 2011 totaled 2,762,945 tons, up 61.7 percent from 1,708,499 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during January 1 – April 7, 2011 amounted to 3,229,381 tons, up 41.8 percent from 2,277,982 tons in the previous year.

<b>Table 3: Weekly rice exports (excluding fragrant rice)</b>					
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>4-WK AVG</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>YEAR AGO</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR</b>
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Jan 30	166,781	182,917	795	525	40.2
Feb 6	197,142	185,472	932	620	50.4
Feb 13	214,204	189,387	1,147	746	53.6
Feb 20	188,985	191,778	1,336	880	51.8
Feb 27	187,469	196,950	1,523	1,032	47.6
Mar 6	235,443	206,525	1,759	1,171	50.2
Mar 13	232,186	211,021	1,991	1,288	54.6
Mar 20	186,887	210,496	2,178	1,409	54.5
Mar 27	190,244	211,190	2,368	1,501	57.7
Apr 3	174,121	195,860	2,542	1,601	58.8
Apr 10	220,993	193,061	2,783	1,708	61.7
<i>Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FASBKE will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.</i>					
Source: Board of Trade of Thailand					

<b>Table 4: Weekly private registered rice export sales</b>			
<b>Movement (MT)</b>	<b>Mar. 21-25</b>	<b>Apr. 4-8 (Revised)</b>	<b>Mar. 28 - Apr. 1 (Preliminary)</b>
<b>Weekly sales</b>	<b>198,077</b>	<b>216,192</b>	<b>196,886</b>
<b>4 week sum</b>	<b>956,903</b>	<b>864,288</b>	<b>803,136</b>
<b>4 week mov. avg.</b>	<b>239,226</b>	<b>216,072</b>	<b>200,784</b>
<b>Year-to-date sales</b>	<b>2,430,822</b>	<b>2,647,014</b>	<b>2,843,900</b>

End of report.